

**MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
Room 414/416, State Capitol
Friday, February 7, 2003**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Dan Eastman, Co-Chair
Rep. Don E. Bush, Co-Chair
Sen. Dave Thomas
Rep. Jeff Alexander
Rep. Neil A. Hansen
Rep. Ann W. Hardy
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson
Rep. Todd E. Kiser
Rep. Joseph G. Murray
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Sen. Michael Waddoups

STAFF PRESENT: Mark C. Bleazard, Fiscal Analyst
Rachel Error, Committee Secretary

Chair Eastman called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Murray moved to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2003 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Alexander, Rep. Hansen, Rep. Hardy, and Rep. Hendrickson absent for the vote.

The two options to reduce the FY04 general funds of the Department of Environmental Quality by \$250,000 were reviewed. Mark Bleazard, Fiscal Analyst, recommended that the Department of Environmental Quality eliminate parts of the air quality monitoring program to reach suggested reduction.

The Analyst recommended that the remaining \$26,000 come out of the Department of Transportation's general fund budget to reach the cut target of \$276,000.

MOTION: Rep. Newbold moved as part of the 2% reduction request that the committee tentatively eliminate parts of the air quality monitoring program by \$250,000 of general fund money. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Alexander, Rep. Hansen, Rep. Hardy, and Rep. Hendrickson absent for the vote.

John Njord, Executive Director of the Department of Transportation, expressed concern about the general fund reduction of \$26,000. Mr. Njord, assisted by Carlos Braceras, Department Director of the Department of Transportation, responded to questions from the committee members.

MOTION: Rep. Bush moved as part of the 2% General Fund reduction request that the committee recommend a general fund reduction of \$26,000 for FY04, \$6,100 from Ports of Entry and \$19,900 from Program Development. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Alexander absent for the vote.

Department of Transportation - Region Management

The Utah Department of Transportation consists of a central office, four region offices, and three districts maintenance offices. The budget recommendation for Region Management in FY04 is \$24,438,500.

During the 2002 General Session, the Legislature appropriated \$200,000 to the Region Management program to create a blue stakes program in Regions 1, 2, and 3. This brought the Department into compliance with Utah Code 54-8a-5.

The Department of Transportation has installed road weather information equipment throughout the state. The Legislature provided funding during the General Session of 2002 for ongoing maintenance and operation costs associated with the road weather information systems.

The Analyst recommends a FY04 budget of \$4,020,300 for Region One, headquartered in Ogden, with a complement of 53 FTEs. Region One is responsible for highway needs in Box Elder, Cache, Morgan, Rich, Weber, and Davis Counties.

A FY04 budget of \$10,715,700 is recommended for Region Two, with a complement of 125 FTEs. Region Two is responsible for highway needs in Salt Lake, Summit, and Tooele Counties.

An appropriation of \$3,813,100 is recommended for Region Three for FY04. This appropriation includes funding for 49 FTEs. Region Three, headquartered in Orem, is responsible for the counties of Dagget, Duchesne, Juab, Uintah, Utah, and Wasatch. The Analyst discussed the intent language included in Senate Bill 1 during the 2000 General Session, but is no longer necessary.

The Analyst recommends a FY04 budget of \$4,220,600 for Region Four, with a complement of 54 FTEs. Region Four, headquartered in Richfield, is responsible for the highway needs of fourteen counties.

\$545,900 is recommended to be appropriated for the Richfield Maintenance District Management for FY04. This includes funding for 8 FTEs and covers the counties of Garfield, Kane, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, and Wayne.

The Analyst is recommending a FY04 budget for Price Maintenance District of \$511,500 with a complement of 7 FTEs. Price Maintenance District is responsible for Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan Counties.

An appropriation of \$611,400 is recommended for the Cedar City Maintenance District Management for FY04. This includes funding for 8 FTEs and is responsible for serving the maintenance needs of Beaver, Iron, Millard, and Washington Counties.

MOTION: Rep. Hendrickson moved that the committee tentatively recommend \$24,438,500 for the Department of Transportation - Region Management for FY04. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Hardy absent for the vote.

Department of Transportation - Maintenance Management

The Analyst recommends an appropriation of \$81,815,900 for the Department of Transportation - Maintenance Management budget for FY04. This is the second largest outlay of the total highway dollar.

The Department is requesting one time appropriations of \$200,000 for the environmental issues and \$500,000 to purchase land to relocate maintenance stations. The Analyst is not recommending direct appropriations for the projects. Instead, the Analyst recommends that if savings in the snow removal budget can be identified for FY03, the Department can use those funds for the environmental issues and to purchase land.

The Department has set up the Maintenance Administration Program to impound maintenance funds for distribution to districts for extraordinary snow storms or natural disasters. It is recommended by the Analyst that \$4,016,300 be appropriated for Maintenance Administration for FY04. These funds will be distributed to regular maintenance functions if emergency expenditures are not required.

The Analyst is recommending an additional \$1,000,000 from the Transportation Fund to the Maintenance Administration Program in FY04 to help offset the inflation in maintenance projects and assist with increased lane miles added throughout the state.

The following are budget recommendations for FY04 within the Department of Transportation - Maintenance Management:

Region 1 Maintenance	\$12,661,500
Region 2 Maintenance	\$20,702,300
Region 3 Maintenance	\$12,065,800
Richfield District Maint.	\$8,674,400
Price District Maint.	\$9,802,000
Cedar City District Maint.	\$9,513,700

The Analyst recommends \$701,200 be approved as funding for a seasonal pool within the Maintenance Division. It is noted that this recommendation is \$200,000 less than has traditionally be appropriated to this program.

An appropriation of \$3,678,700 is recommended for the expenditures in the Land and Building program for FY04.

Incident management, a program started through a federal grant and designed to keep traffic moving after an accident was discussed. Mr. Njord and Mr. Braceras responded to questions from committee members. Dave Miles, Operations Engineer for the Department of Transportation, reported to the committee about the new Huntington Building.

MOTION: Rep. Murray moved that the committee tentatively recommend \$81,815,900 for the Department of Transportation - Maintenance Management for FY04 and adopt the following intent statements:

It is the intent of the Legislature that if savings in the snow removal budget can be identified at the Department of Transportation for FY 2003, The Department can redirect those funds for expenditures for environmental issues not to exceed \$200,000 and land purchases for new maintenance stations not to exceed \$500,000. The Legislature also intends that the Department of Transportation will report to the Subcommittee for Transportation, Environmental Quality, and National Guard during the 2004 General Session where those funds were expended.

It is the intent of the Legislature that these funds be considered nonlapsing.

It is the intent of the Legislature that any and all collections or cash income from the sale or salvage of land and buildings are to be lapsed to the Transportation Fund.

The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Hardy absent for the vote.

Dave Miles discussed the Maintenance Management Audit and presented the Department of Transportation's implementation plan.

MOTION: Rep. Alexander moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Hardy absent for the vote.

Chair Eastman adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Rep. Don E. Bush, Co-Chair

Sen. Dan Eastman, Co-Chair